



# Maricopa County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 15

[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/juvenile/casa/Casa.html](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/juvenile/casa/Casa.html)

June/July 2001

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Kent Dana  
TV News Anchor

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 28 – 1:30-3:30 p.m.

“Current Trends in Adolescent Substance Abuse: An Overview of Club Drugs, Substances and Warning Signs,” Kristen Genovese, Director of Community Education, East Valley Addition Council (EVAC). 2190 Grace Blvd., Chandler. RSVP to Lynn Presley 480.281.5108.

### July 17 – Peer Group Meeting

### July 25 – Mentor Meeting 9 a.m., Durango Facility

### July 27-28 – Orientation Training

### August 2– Post Orientation Training – 6-9 p.m., Durango Facility

### October 20 – All Day Training

Please RSVP to our main  
office for all events:  
602.506.4083

## Volunteers awarded for giving children ‘light of hope’

“Giving the Light of Hope to a Child,” was the theme of the Fifth Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, which was Juvenile Court’s special way to honor and show its appreciation for the 200 Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers who serve over 400 of Maricopa County’s dependent children. Lighthouse centerpieces decorated the tables symbolizing CASAs as rays of hope for dependent children. The centerpieces also included symbolism of a boat, representing the home for the child; an anchor for needed stability and permanency and the grains of sand for the many children who need to be served. Special friends from the community and Superior Court participated in the celebration



Special recognition was paid to CASA Mentors, including, from left: Linda Warfield, Lynda Pederson, Dana Gilroy, Jackie Flowers, Beverly Burch, Angela Ashley. Also honored, and not pictured are Margo Fitts, Hart Gottliebson, Anne Donahoe and Karen Tyrrell.

to show their support and gratitude for all of the time, hard work and love selflessly volunteered by CASAs.

## Fifth Annual CASA Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Honorees



The Honorable Pamela J. Franks, former Associate Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, accepted the CASA Judge of the Year award from the Honorable Colin F. Campbell, Superior Court in Maricopa County Presiding Judge. Judge Franks was one of the more than 30 honorees at the 5th Annual CASA Volunteer Recognition Banquet

### Light of Hope Award

Judge Maurice Portley – Former Juvenile Court Presiding Judge

### Judge of the Year

Pamela J. Franks

Former Juvenile Court Associate Presiding Judge

### Volunteer of the Year

James Lee

### Rookies of the Year

Greg Broberg; Marilyn Priebe

### CASA Project Pioneer

Laura Lobraico

### Special Appreciation

Nancy Molever– Former CASA Program Manager

Angela Ashley– Arizona Council for CASA

### Community Support Awards

Judith G. Wolf, Ph.D; Viki Reed – Young Arts of Arizona

Derrick Platt – Juvenile Detention Supervisor

Sarah Fedirka – Kappa Alpha Theta

### Speakers Bureau Recognition

Greg Broberg; Peiggi Clements; Nicole Ekberg; Pam Frye  
Gwen Loving; Anne Murphy; Marshall Porter; Marilyn Priebe

Mary Ann Stanton

# Coordinator's Corner

By Bonnie Marcus



Partnership seems to be the current focus of the child welfare system. Several agencies have become involved in various partnerships to try to provide inter-agency collaboration and, through this, an effective continuum of services for dependent children and their families.

There are two programs that may have an impact on the delivery of services to CASA children and families.

The **300 Kids Project** is the state mental health system's response to a 10-

year-old class action lawsuit alleging that the mental health system was not responding to the mental health needs of children and families. This project is based on the belief that to serve children, we must serve families, and to serve families effectively, all agencies with whom that family is involved must work together to provide needed services. The plan will assist 300 children.

This program calls together, with the aid of a family facilitator, a team of people - a Collaborative Special Team - to work with the family. Team members can include case managers, behavioral health providers, education representatives, developmental disabilities providers, juvenile justice personnel, and anyone else the family identifies as important to their recovery. The team and family meet in Family Team Conferences to develop a

plan that would best utilize the family's strengths to overcome the issues which are causing difficulties. This same team is to work with the family throughout the case. Flex dollars are available to provide "nontraditional" goods and services which might help a family overcome identified challenges.

Presently, this pilot program is available only in Mesa. Families are identified through the local Child Protective Services (CPS) office, Juvenile Justice or the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). As of May 15, the program has served 41 children in 19 families and will expand to serve 200 children in Maricopa County and 100 children in Northern Arizona.

The **Substance Abuse Treatment Fund Partnership** is a collaboration developed between the Department of Economic Security (DES), the Department of Health Services and community providers, to build a family centered service delivery system for substance abuse services.

The partnership strives to promote family stability through treatment of the whole family when substance abuse is an identified issue.

The family can enter the system through a referral by CPS, DDD, or the DES Jobs Program. The program seeks a multifaceted approach that doesn't just treat the individual substance abuser, but the family as a whole. Terros, the contracted agency provides these services through its Family First Substance Abuse Treatment Program. If substance abuse is an identified issue in your case, it might be appropriate to ask your case manager about involvement of the family in this program.

In advocating for our CASA children, it is beneficial to be informed on new and innovative programs. We will attempt to keep you updated on new projects and partnerships as we become aware of them.

As always, thank you for your dedication to our CASA children.

## CASA Kudos

• Judge Maurice Portley commends CASA **Nicole Ekberg** for the great job she is doing and advised her to keep up the good work on a very tough case.  
• CPS Case Manager **Alicia Wasklewicz** commends **Claudia Noye** for going above

and beyond what is necessary for the children on her case.

The Foster Care Review Board also made commendations:

• **Lori Ohmart** and the team for "maintaining such positive and cooperative communication among all of the interested parties."  
• CASA/surrogate parent, **Kathleen Jorgensen**, for her

continued devotion to the children on her case. The counsel for the children, the children's guardian ad litem and the Court commend Jorgensen and the grandmother for their work on this case.

• CASA **Pam Frye**, and all the interested parties, for working toward the best interest of the

children on the case.

• **Joseph and Victoria Orlando** for their efforts with the children and their help in facilitating visits and extracurricular activities.  
• **Ellen Altman** for "her commitment to her child."  
• **Melvin O'Donell** for "his advocacy on his child's behalf."

## Happy Birthday CASAs

<b>06/01</b>	Carla Conway	<b>06/11</b>	Cassandra Carter	<b>07/04</b>	Alicia Juarez	<b>07/28</b>	Amy MacDonald
	Florinda Obie	<b>06/12</b>	Melanie Turrell	<b>07/05</b>	Kimberly Hutchens	<b>07/29</b>	Lynne Eivins
<b>06/02</b>	Carl D. Harms	<b>06/13</b>	Roy Reynolds	<b>07/11</b>	M. Lisa M. Weyer	<b>07/30</b>	Kara Ashcraft
	Sherri Tinney	<b>06/16</b>	Carolyn Hubbard	<b>07/14</b>	Judy Flanagan		
<b>06/03</b>	Stephanie Seppanen		Celeste Bennett	<b>07/17</b>	D. Anne Stehr		
<b>06/04</b>	Florette Smithiger	<b>06/19</b>	Ray Cheroske	<b>07/19</b>	Patricia Peterson		
<b>06/05</b>	June Anderson		Shirley Polk		Deborah Egan		
<b>06/07</b>	Eileen Schioppa	<b>06/20</b>	Susan E. Russell	<b>07/21</b>	Gretchen Black		
<b>06/08</b>	Charlie Johnson	<b>06/20</b>	Kristin Simerdla		Barbara Clark		
<b>06/09</b>	Gwenda Loving	<b>06/21</b>	Elaine Burns	<b>07/22</b>	Mary Leason		
	Lisa Sullivan	<b>06/24</b>	Dana Gilroy	<b>07/23</b>	A. Louise Jones		
			John Lare	<b>07/26</b>	Lynda Pederson		
		<b>06/27</b>	Eva Meyer	<b>07/27</b>	Linda Warfield		
		<b>06/29</b>	Liz Smithhart		Martha Patrick		



PLEASE REMEMBER  
YOUR CONTACT LOGS  
ARE DUE  
EVERY MONTH.

## Volunteer Views

By Peiggi Clements



Longtime Valley of the Sun news anchorman Kent Dana has earned the respect of a dedicated following for his 20-year feature, "Wednesday's Child," which provides an opportunity for children in need of nurturing families to be spotlighted during an early evening newscast. The show has succeeded in matching countless children with loving parents. This is why it was a personal pleasure to see this amazingly genuine and kind man being awarded special recognition for his efforts, during the Fifth Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the ASU Downtown Center on East Monroe Street.

The Channel 12 anchorman shared his insight into the rewards of volunteerism, based on his personal involvement in finding children new homes. The greatest lesson he learned is not that volunteers NEED to have awards banquets. He said, it is NOT for the rewards that volunteers volunteer. It is for their generosity of spirit. It is for their innate sense of fair play and empathy for those facing difficult challenges. It is to share their compassion. That day I had the privilege of standing tall among a select few who are not rewarded with trips to the Bahamas or shiny new cars – but are rewarded simply by the smile of a child.

# CASA's experience spans two states

Three years ago, Hart Gottliebson left Dublin, Ohio – a town of 23,000 residents in a state of century-old landmarks, woodlands amid open fields and 37 inches of rain each year. She arrived in the desert of Phoenix, Arizona, with sand and rock formations, a scant 7.5 inches of annual rainfall, dust storms and a population of more than a million.

The one thing she refused to leave behind, was her dedication to the CASA program. With her came eight years of memories and experience from her CASA participation in Ohio. Upon her arrival, she joined the Maricopa County CASA program as a volunteer and mentor.

During her 11-year CASA commitment, Hart has served as an advocate for more than 40 children. In Ohio, where the need nearly overwhelmed the handful of CASA volunteers in her area, it was routine for each CASA to advocate for three, four or five children and as many as eight children at a time.

Hart believes the autonomy of the CASA program is its strength, explaining:

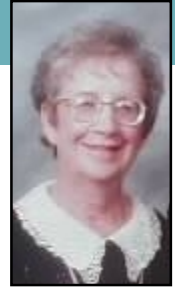
## Help us help you

We need your help to better serve you and best meet your training and support needs. One excellent opportunity to learn and network is the Peer Group, a monthly meeting led by a mentor for our CASA Volunteers. New CASAs joining the program within the last year are strongly encouraged to attend at least one peer group. Please take time to contact your coordinator at 602.506.4083 and give us your input.

## Volunteer Profile

By Liz Osborn

### Hart Gottliebson



"CASAs are attached to no agency; they are attached to no one but their CASA children."

Before relocating to Arizona, Hart was Executive Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), a federal program under the AmeriCorps umbrella, which is the United States domestic Peace Corps. In her job, Hart was responsible for positioning 3,000 volunteers in the workplace, libraries, doctors' offices and in schools.

She has been a social worker, advising all age groups, including youths in juvenile delinquency programs. Upon arrival in Arizona, she continued her social work in Casa Grande until health problems took her temporarily away from her profession. She utilizes her social work skills by volunteering time answering a hotline, providing help to parents who become overwhelmed by the demands of parenting.

Walking and swimming fill Hart's quiet hours and she will read just about anything, especially the history of the South. She plans a trip to St. Louis to celebrate her mother's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As Hart's health continues to improve, she looks forward to returning to social work and a more active role in the CASA program. Hart said there are thousands of children in foster care nationwide waiting for a permanent home.

She is more hopeful for the communities who have implemented Model Court and expects the day will come when it will be the standard by which all juvenile justice systems move their dependent children toward permanence.

## We want to know:

- How frequently could you attend Peer Group meetings?
- Where should Peer Groups be held?
- What time should Peer Groups meet?
- What day of the week should Peer Groups meet?
- What suggestions do you have to improve training?



# CASA Contacts and Information

## Locations

## Program Staff

### Durango

3125 West Durango, Suite 130  
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Leslie Blakley	602.506.4082
La Donna Moss	602.506.3930
Laurie Laughlin	602.506.3934
Mark Koch	602.506.6491
Esperanza Tavena	602.506.4415
Otis R. Evans	602.506.4425
Mavis Monson	602.506.4083

### Southeast

1810 South Lewis Street  
Mesa, AZ 85210

Rita Flores	602.506.3935
Bonnie Marcus	602.506.3379

  
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